



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

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Newsletter No.7

Friday 17th October 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians

War Heroes

We were delighted to discover the local history group in the village have been researching the lives of the soldiers who fought and died in the First World War. At the moment they are estimating 22 soldiers lost their lives, many of whom attended our school. The researchers have been using our very precious school records and log books to trace the lives of these soldiers. On October 22nd the church bells will be rung 100 times to commemorate the life of Private John Francis Keeling who died in battle exactly 100 years ago to the day. We will be talking to the children about this important occasion for the village.

Many of the soldiers had not long left our school, moving into work in and around Barton before joining the armed forces. Every one of the soldiers who died will have their anniversary commemorated by the same chiming of the church bells, so this will be a sound you will become familiar with over the next four years. I am sure you will join us in thanking the history group for working to highlight an important part of our village's history. If you have any information about any villagers who fought in the First World War, we would love to share your knowledge with the history group who are keen to learn of the stories behind the soldiers. Please speak to one of the Headteachers or office staff if you would like to share your knowledge - many thanks.

Open Day

Many thanks to all the parents and children who attended the open day this week - we hope you all had an informative visit! The application process for September 2015 reception places opens on 3rd November 2014 and closes on 15th January 2015.

Year 2 transition to Juniors

All Year 2 children will shortly be bringing home a letter inviting you to apply for a junior school place after half-term. We would encourage you to read the letter and apply online for a quick and easy application. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.



Harvest Festival

As mentioned in previous letters this will take place on Wednesday 22nd October at 9.15am. Please remember that there is a limit of one adult per family for this event.

Attendance and lateness

At the end of each half-term, we analyse the attendance data for each child in school, working out which class has the highest attendance, in order to award team points. We also congratulate all children who have attended school every day in the half-term. We value the importance of their coming to school every day ready to learn and know there is a clear correlation between children's progress and how often they are at school.

Our governing body also follows local authority guidance and highlights to parents how missing school or being late regularly means to their schooling. Parents of any children whose attendance has fallen below 85% this half-term will receive a letter at the start of next half-term. We often hear of comments such as, "Oh, it's just infants, it doesn't matter if they miss a few days", and "I wouldn't let them miss any time from High School but it doesn't matter here". The formative years of a child's life are the most important - if parts of learning such as basic literacy and numeracy are missed now, there is very little chance this will be caught up later in life. We appreciate your support with this.

If you are concerned about your child's attendance and wish to speak to one of the Headteachers, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Did you know that:-

5 minutes late every day = 3.4 days of teaching lost during the school year

10 minutes late every day = 6.9 days

15 minutes late every day = 10.3 day

20 minutes late every day = 13.8 days

30 minutes late every day = 20.7 days

Please ensure your child arrives at school promptly each day.

PTA News

Date for your diary...We're hosting a bowling night, complete with a vintage wooden skittle alley, for parents on Friday 21st November at school. You'll need a team of four to bowl and a good dose of competitive spirit! Tickets will be limited and priced at £5 per head. We'll be sending out more information after half term, but until then, get working on your strike!

Logo Competition.

Thanks to everyone who worked hard on their PTA logo entries. The school council selected two winners whose designs have been combined to create one logo. The winning designers Trae Hurst and Evie Harvey will receive their prizes in today's assembly. Congratulations to you both and thank you to everyone who entered.



Workers of the week

2K - Two next week

2M - Jessica Adkins for writing a super story about a dragon

1S - Bella Richards for super imaginative movements in dance

1W - Chloe Pick for writing a super fact sheet about animals

RR - Child absent

RL - Raees Rahouff for super repeating patterns with 2D shapes

Well done children.

Wishing you a lovely weekend

Please remember we break up for half term on Friday 24th October and return to school on Monday 3rd November.

Kind regards

Mrs Farmer & Mrs Burton

